

# **1<sup>st</sup> Information Circular**

## **MEPAG Meeting**

### **June 30-July 2, 2004**

#### Letter of Invitation

Members of the Mars community,

I am pleased to invite you to attend the next Mars Exploration Program Analysis Group (MEPAG) meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, June 30, through noon, Friday, July 2, in Monrovia, California (near JPL). Tuesday, June 29, will be reserved for committee work or other meetings, should that be necessary.

Specific topics that we will address at the meeting include the implications of the MER and Mars Express results for planning of the future Mars program, discussion of the results from the Astrobiology Field Laboratory and the Organic Contamination SSGs, and plans for new SSG activities for the Moon-Mars connection and for preparation for human exploration of Mars in response to the new vision for NASA. These issues are central to the future of the Mars program, and we hope for broad participation from the science community in support of the discussions.

International participation at this meeting is strongly encouraged to provide a broader perspective in updating our strategy for Mars exploration.

If you have any issues or concerns with regard to the agenda, please correspond with either myself or Dr. David Beaty as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Bruce Jakosky  
MEPAG Chair

#### Basic Logistics

- Dates: June 30 to July 2. June 29 is reserved for committee work as needed
- Time: Start at 8 AM on June 30. End at noon on July 2.
- Location: The Holiday Inn Monrovia, 924 West Huntington Drive, (626) 357-1900. This is 20 miles east of the Burbank Airport, and 6 miles east of Pasadena. The hotel is easily accessible from the 210 Freeway at the Huntington Drive off ramp, and has ample free parking for hotel guests.
- Lodging: The Holiday Inn will reserve 70 rooms for MEPAG at a rate of \$89, which includes a full breakfast. Rooms have DSL service.

### Preliminary structure of the agenda

- June 30 AM: Program overview presentations/discussions
- June 30 PM: Results of the 2003-04 Mars exploration campaign, and implications for forward program planning (MER, MEX)  
Welcome sushi bar
- July 1: Discussion of recent MEPAG-sponsored planning activity, and/or Mars program information of relevance to MEPAG. Examples may include:
  1. MEPAG Goals Committee: analysis and discussion
  2. Pathways: analysis and discussion
  3. AFL SSG
  4. Organic Contaminants SSG
  5. Mars-Moon linkages
  6. Human-related issues
  7. MSL Status report/discussion
  8. Deep Drill SSG
  9. Growing the Mars Science community
- July 2 AM: Forward planning. Examples may include:
  1. Continuing and/or new SSG activity
  2. Other?

For more logistical information, please contact Terry Martin, MEPAG meeting coordinator, [Terry.Z.Martin@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Terry.Z.Martin@jpl.nasa.gov), phone = 818-354-2178, FAX = 818-393-4619. For comments concerning the agenda, please contact Bruce Jakosky ([Bruce.Jakosky@lasp.colorado.edu](mailto:Bruce.Jakosky@lasp.colorado.edu)) or David Beaty ([David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:David.Beaty@jpl.nasa.gov)). If the master MEPAG e-mail list needs to be updated (either correction of faulty e-mail addresses, or addition of Mars science colleagues who have been inadvertently omitted), please contact Debbie Calderón ([Debbie.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov](mailto:Debbie.Calderon@jpl.nasa.gov)).